

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 DHA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
INRE-00 IO-13 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 H-01  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 /063 W  
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O R 121613Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9738  
INFO USIA WASHDC  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10009

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

USIA FOR IOP IBS IPS IEU

E.O. 11652 GDS  
TAGS: PINT SOPN UR US  
SUBJECT: TASS CHARGES TOTH WORKEDFOR US INTELLIGENCE SERVICES

1. JULY 12 ENGLISH TASS WIRE CONTAINS ARTICLE BY  
VASILIIY BORISOV ENTITLED: "CONCERNING A NOISY ANTI-SOVIET  
CAMPAIGN" WHICH TREATS TOTH AFFAIRS. ARTICLE  
BEGINS BY STATING THAT WESTERN PRESS IS ATTEMPTING  
TO PRESENT TOTH AFFAIR AS PERSECUTION. ARTICLE GOES  
ON TO ASSERT THAT SOVIET UNION IS METICULOUSLY  
OBSERVING CSCE FINAL ACT PROVISIONS RELATING TO  
JOURNALISTS AND STATES THAT ONLY VERY SMALL HANDFULL  
OF MOSCOW BASED FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS HAVE COMPLAINED. RETURNING TO  
TOTH CASE ARTICLE SAYS TOTH USED HIS JOURNALISTIC CREDENTIALS  
"TO GATHER SECRETS".

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2. KEY PARAGRAPH OF BORISOV PIECE READS AS FOLLOWS:  
QUOTE AS WAS ESTABLISHED BY COMPETENT SOVIET ORGANS,  
TOTH HAD RECEIVED ASSIGNMENTS NOT SO MUCH FROM THE  
LOS ANGELES TIMES AS FROM AMERICAN SPECIAL AGENCIES.  
WHILE FULFILLING THESE ASSIGNMENTS TOTH TRIED TO  
MAKE THE ACQUAINTANCE OF SOVIET CITIZENS WHO HE  
THOUGHT COULD POSSESS INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO U.S.

SPECIAL AGENCIES. NATURALLY, THESE CONTACTS WERE CARRIED OUT UNDER TOTH'S DESIRE TO INFORM AMERICAN READERS ABOUT SOVIET SCIENCE. UNQUOTE.

3. BORISOV COMMENTS THAT WHILE TOTH COULD HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND TRIED "THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES HOWEVER DISPLAYED GOODWILL AND RESTRICTED THEMSELVES TO TREATING TOTH AS A WITNESS". BORISOV OBSERVES THAT SOME PEOPLE IN THE US ARE TRYING TO WHITEWASH TOTH WHILE CONTRIBUTING TO A SLANDEROUS ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN. BORISOV NOTES THT TOTH, INTERVIEWED BY A TASS CORRESPONDENT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, SAID THAT HE HAD NO COMPLAINTS BUT BEGAN TO WRITE STORIES ONCE HE REACHED THE WEST.

4. BORISOV OBSERVES THAT TOTH'S ACTIVITIES IN COLLECTING INFORMATION ARE WELL KNOWN AND HE SAYS THA TOTH HAD ATTEMPTED TO TURN THE SOURCE OF HIS PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL PAPER "INTO A REGULAR AND CLADESTINE SOURCE OF SECRET MATERIAL." OTHER SECRET INFORMATION WHICH TOTH COLLECTED INCLUDED LISTS OF CLASSIFIED ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE USSR AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY. BORISOV DOES SAY THAT THE CIA DISASSOCIATED ITSELF FROM THE TOTH AFFAIR BUT THAT THERE ARE OTHER ESPIONAGE AGENCIES RELATED TO THE PENTAGON. BORISOV IMPLIES THAT THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL PROOF OF TOTH'S CONFIDENTIAL

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CONNECTION WITH OTHER AMERICAN ESPIONAGE AGENCIES AND CONCLUDES WITH COMMENT THAT TOTH IS NOT REALLY A JOURNALIST.

5. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE PUBLICLY STATED THAT TOTH HIMSELF WAS ENGAGED IN ESPIONAGE FOR THE USG. ALTHOUGH IT HAS ALREADY APPEARED THUS FAR ONLY ON FOREIGN TASS, IT MAY WELL ALSO BE PUBLISHED IN THE SOVIET PRESS. ASIDE FROM THE DIRECT LINKAGE OF TOTH WITH ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES, THERE IS LITTLE REMARKABLE IN THE ARTICLE. AS IS OFTEN THE CASE IN SUCH SOVIET PROPAGANDA EXERCISES A NUMBER OF VARIOUS TARGETS ARE COVERED.

6. PRESS GUIDANCE. IF ASKED, WE WILL REPEAT OUR PREVIOUS STATEMENT THAT TOTH WAS ENGAGED IN LEGITIMATE JOURNALISTIC ACTIVITIES.  
TOON

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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